

Submission to the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee.

Customs Legislation Amendment (Commercial Greyhound Export and Import Prohibition) Bill 2021

I, Alan Dolphin, fully support the proposed amendments to the bill, and banning the import and export of greyhounds into and out of Australia for commercial purposes.

A brief introduction to myself.

I am a self-funded retiree after a 45-year career in local government.

I have, over nine years, adopted two rescue greyhounds. Both my greyhounds suffered injuries while racing, my current rescue is on daily medication as a result of a broken hock while racing at 2.5 years of age. My first rescue succumbed to aggressive osteosarcoma at 9 years of age. Osteosarcoma is a genetic bone cancer and is recognised as the biggest killer of greyhounds in Australia.

I am currently the Vice President of FREE THE HOUNDS, a volunteer run welfare advocacy group based in Western Australia.

A brief outline of my reasons for supporting the amendments:

EXPORT.

The main reason for the export of Greyhounds is that they are no longer viable to be raced in Australia. They are no longer a financial benefit to their Australian connections.

Although Greyhounds Australasia stopped issuing Greyhound passports enabling export to China in 2013, Chinese breeding websites openly advertise Australian greyhounds recently exported there.

Simple research shows that some of these dogs are exported very soon after their last race in Australia.

Various Australian racing associated websites show some of these dogs as still racing in Australia or DECEASED.

This demonstrates a complete failure in the accuracy of Greyhound Australasia record keeping.

With the prevalence of genetic diseases such as osteosarcoma and pannus in Australian dogs this is now becoming more widespread as Greyhound breeders, here and overseas, do not look at breeding these conditions out or researching bloodlines.

Australian exporters use loopholes within the current legislation by claiming the dogs as pets or companion animals or export to countries such as New Zealand and Ireland which still export to China.

Rehoming of ex-racing Greyhounds is at saturation point in Australia. Racing breeds up to 4 times more dogs than needed. Because rehoming is becoming more difficult in Australia racing are now looking at overseas markets to dispose of redundant animals rather than reducing the numbers being bred. For instance, the recent agreement between Greyhounds Australasia, GRNSW and the Fraternal Order of Police in the United States where dogs will be exported for the use as therapy dogs raises the issue that only the "cream of the crop", the better, healthier dogs will be exported, thus leaving those not making the grade foisted upon the Australian public to rehome, these will be dogs with physical and psychological injury which make them difficult to rehome meaning extended time in kennels or worse. What is the future for these dogs? Euthanasia?

IMPORT

With the rehoming programmes in crisis, and overbreeding continuing there is no valid reason to bring more greyhounds into Australia exacerbating the issue.

With Greyhound racing in decline globally Australia will be seen as the “hub of Greyhound racing” as Australia is the only country increasing its commitment to racing and has the worst gambling statistics. Thus, imports are likely to increase substantially.

Sincerely Yours

Alan Dolphin